RIGIN/ACTION

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

Dcf 6-2 Chicom Chinat

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FROM : Amembassy TAIPEI DATE: September 4, 1965

SUBJECT : GRC-Chicom Naval Battle off Tung Shan Island

REF : Naval Attache Report No. 5 818 0201 65, 19 August 1965

1. In a recent conversation concerning the naval battle off Tung Shan Island on August 6, 1965, in which the GRC lost PCE 65 and PC 118, Admiral NI Yue-si, Chief of General Staff, attributed the disaster to poor tactics. He said this was the 22nd occasion on which the Chinese Navy had assisted in clandestine operations against the mainland and that in some cases GRC ships had gone even closer in.

2. Ni said the first error was made in going directly from Tsoying to the point where the operation was to take place. The ships were picked up by Chinese Communist radar 50 miles out and 90 miles from the closest Chinese Communist radar station. On approaching the shore, the ships turned north and dropped the shore party. If they had continued in the same direction, Admiral Ni said, they probably would have got away, but instead they made the mistake of doubling back toward Swatow, an area where the Chinese Communists were known to have ships always on the alert.

3. Admiral Ni also criticized the Chinese Air Force for slow reaction time, stating that the Air Force was notified in time to have reached the scene by dawn, but the first planes did not actually arrive until 7 AM, by which time the action was over.

cc: TDC
Naval Att.

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Drafted by: RNClough:ds 9/3/65

Contents and Classification Approved by:

Clearances:

4. Admiral Ni said he did not think many survivors were captured by the Communists. Peiping radio had reported the capture of seven, including the skipper of the PCE whom survivors who returned to Taiwan had seen wounded in the forehead. Survivors estimated that only about 30 persons altogether could be seen in the water and it was thought that the Admiral and most of the crew had gone down with the ship.

Ralph N. Clough

Ralph N. Clough
Charge d'Affaires a. i.